

WEST COAST HALIBUT NEWS

The feature of the halibut market the past month was the unusually high prices obtained for this time of the year. The average of 8 cents for the month broke all previous records. It was nearly double that of April, 1912.

The high price was largely due to a falling off in the catch. Then, too, there seems to be a growing demand for the fish. There was a decrease of more than 1,000,000 pounds from March. The total catch was nearly 2,000,000 pounds less than April, 1912. The falling off was especially noticeable among the independent schooners, which brought in 979,000 lbs., as compared with 2,291,000 in April, 1912. There was increase, however in the shipments of box fish from Alaska.

Continued stormy weather on the fishing banks of the North hampered the fishermen in their operations and caused the falling off in the catch. Although at this time of the year there is generally a shifting from the winter to the summer fishing grounds in Alaska this was largely delayed on account of the storms. However, the changing from protected to the open waters is not as general as in past years. An increasing number of larger vessels are engaged in the industry, which can operate outside the year around.—Pacific Fisherman.

BEAM TRAWLING DON'T WORK WELL

The British Columbia Fisheries' trawlers Triumph and Canada, recently arrived from England, will probably operate out of Victoria instead of Prince Rupert, until the Grand Trunk Pacific is completed. The Canada is being converted from a trawler into a boat using dories, the Grimsby method being found unpracticable. The Triumph is expected here soon to be similarly equipped.

Gulf Coast Notes.

The fishing fleet of the Gulf Fisheries Co., of Galveston, Tex., has been further increased by the purchase of a new schooner, the Ellen C. Burke, which arrived at the fisheries a few days ago. The Ellen C. Burke, while not a new vessel, is especially adapted for snapper fishing. She is of 60 tons net register, 90.5 feet long, 22.8 feet wide and 10.6 feet deep, having capacity for approximately 70,000 pounds of snapper. She was built in 1902 at Essex, and has been proven to be one of the fastest boats of her class afloat. The schooner brought with her from the North Atlantic waters what is known as a seineboat, built for the handling and catching of fish by use of seines. It is understood the company proposes to add to the snapper industry the catching of Spanish mackerel for the market, to which use the boat will be put.

Port Arthur, Tex., Eight thousand pounds of red snapper, representing the biggest catch of fish ever recorded by a local boat, were brought in recently by the schooner Glida. The cargo of fish was secured at the snap banks off the Sabine jetties during five days of fishing.—Fishing Gazette.

Cutter Inspection.

The revenue cutter Androscoggin left Portland Sunday for Boston, to undergo her semi-annual inspection at the hands of Capt. H. M. Broadbent, the commanding officer of the eastern division of the revenue cutter service. After that is over the Androscoggin in company with the cutter Gresham will engage in target practice with rapid fire guns off Boon Island. Owing to the absence of Capt. Billard, the commanding officer of the Androscoggin, who is spending a month's vacation in Washington, the cutter will leave Portland in command of Lieut. Wilcox. Capt. Broadbent will come to Portland next week to make an inspection of the Woodbury. The cutter is tied up at Brown's wharf and unless called on to render assistance to vessels in distress will remain there until about June 1, when she will begin her usual spring target practice probably off Chebeague Island.

ONE LONESOME SLOOP IN DOCK

That Is All T Wharf Can Scare Up in the Line of Fish Fares Today.

Not for several weeks has the Boston market been so depleted of fresh fish arrivals as today, not a craft of any description being on hand at T dock this morning when trade opened for the day.

Yesterday afternoon, sch. Ignatius Enos arrived with 3200 pounds of fresh cod. The only receipts of fresh fish today was from the Gloucester gill netters, Provincetown and Rockport.

Prices took a climb, wholesalers paying \$4 to \$5 for haddock and large cod, \$3 to \$3.50 for small cod, \$2 to \$3 for hake and \$3 to \$4 for pollock.

Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are: Sch. Ignatius Enos, 3200 cod. Haddock, \$4 to \$5 per cwt.; large cod, \$4 to \$5; market cod, \$3 to \$3.50; hake, \$2 to \$5; pollock, \$3 to \$4.

Fulton Fish Market Notes.

There was plenty of low-priced fish in the market last week, still buying was light. Just why the demand was light is one of those things which no one in the business seems able to explain.

Seiners and netters began landing mackerel at the market Monday, and while arrivals on the first days were heavy, those following were not as satisfactory as the wholesale men desired. Prices between Saturday and Thursday were 27 to 30 cents for bloaters and 10 to 12 cents for mediums. On Friday bloaters brought 25 cents and 10 to 11 cents for mediums. The bulk of the large fish arriving in the market came by express. The Constellation on Friday had a catch of 50,000 fish, of which 2000 were tinkers and 2000 mediums. That left only 1000 bloaters. The netters have not been making many heavy hauls.

Codfish.—During the first half of the week, market cod sold at 2 to 3 cents. On Wednesday and Thursday the quotation was 3 cents, while on Thursday some sales were made at 4 cents. During the first half of the week steak cod sold at 4 to 5 cents. The highest price during the week prevailed on Thursday, when some sales were made at 7 cents. Five to 6 cents was the price on Wednesday and Friday.

Skinned eels were quoted at 10 to 12 cents, while eels with hides on brought 5 to 8 cents.

The market was glutted with flounders, which sold at 1 to 4 cents per pound according to size.

Haddock was low in price during the first half of the week, selling at 3 cents per pound. From Wednesday to Friday the quotation was 4 to 5 cents.

Western white halibut brought 8 to 9 cents. There were no Eastern white halibut in the market.

There was little demand for shad herring. The quotation was \$3 to \$4 per barrel.

Steak hake brought 4 to 5 cents per pound.

Spanish mackerel brought 12 to 15 cents per pound.

Two and one-half to 3-2 cents was the quotation on pollock.

To Launch Porgie Steamer.

The new porgie steamer East Hampton, built by Cobb, Butler & Co., at Rockland, will probably go overboard the last of the month. As soon as launched she will be towed here to take on engines, etc., at the Portland Company. She is to be delivered to her owners, H. C. Siskler and T. C. Meadows of New York City, by July 1. When completed she will be the largest and finest boat of her type afloat, having a capacity of 6100 barrels of fish, 1100 more than any other boat of the kind on the coast.

Will Trawl For Cod in Far North.

The schooner Vega, of the Union Fish company, which left Seattle recently for the Shumigan islands and Bering Sea, will trawl for cod. This method has never been tried on the Pacific Coast, and Capt. Aune, of the Vega, hopes to double the vessel's catch, which last year was 140,000 pounds. At a cost of \$5,000 the Vega was equipped for trawling. There are 1,000 hooks for each of eight double dories. The Vega has 250 tons of salt and five months' provisions for 35 men.

DANDY TRIP FOR THE HAMMOND

Has a Large Lot of Halibut Beside Fresh and Salted Codfish.

Sch. John Hays Hammond, Capt. Archie McLeod, is in this morning with a big halibut and cod fare, hailing for 40,000 pounds of fresh halibut, 40,000 pounds of salt cod and 35,000 pounds of fresh cod.

The Hammond took a baiting at the Magdelenes and went to Cape North where she secured her cod fare, afterwards going to Quero for halibut to complete her trip. The halibut fare sold to the New England Fish Company this morning at seven cents a pound for white and five cents for gray.

Sch. Frances S. Grueby brought down from Boston here fresh cod fare of 130,000 pounds which sold this morning to split.

The gill netters did but little yesterday, only part of the fleet being out. The day's catch was about 30,000 pounds.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

- Sch. John Hays Hammond, Quero, 40,000 lbs. fresh halibut, 40,000 lbs. salt cod, 40,000 lbs. fresh cod.
- Sch. Frances C. Grueby, via Boston, 130,000 lbs. fresh cod.
- Str. Lorena, gill netting, 3600 lbs. fresh cod.
- Str. Mary L., gill netting, 800 lbs. fresh cod.
- Str. Evelyn H., gill netting, 3400 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Nora B. Robinson, gill netting, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Mystery, gill netting, 1600 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Randolph, gill netting, 3000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Sch. Little Fannie, gill netting, 3500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Prince Olaf, gill netting, 1800 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Eagle, gill netting, 1700 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Quoddy, gill netting, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Bethulia, gill netting, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Ibsen, gill netting, 1200 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. Nora B. Robinson, gill netting, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.
- Str. R. J. Kellick, gill netting, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.
- Sch. Emily Sears, shore.
- Sch. Arabia, south seining, 2 bbls. salt mackerel.
- Sch. Mary E. Silveria, via Boston.

Vessels Sailed.

- Sch. Mary DeCosta, shacking.
- Sch. Frances P. Mesquita, shacking.
- Sch. Rita A. Viator, haddocking.
- Sch. Mildred Robinson, shacking.
- Sch. Norma, seining.
- Sch. Kineo, halibuting.
- Sch. Rena A. Percy, Pensacola.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish.

- Handline Georges codfish, large, \$1.75 per cwt.; medium, \$4.25; snappers, \$3.
- Eastern deck handline codfish, large, \$5.25; medium, \$4.50.
- Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$4.25; medium, \$3.75.
- Georges halibut codfish, large, \$4.50; mediums, \$4.
- Cusk, large, \$2.25; mediums, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.25.
- Dressed pollock, 90c, round, 80c.
- Hake, \$1.50.
- Pollock, \$1.50.
- Haddock, \$1.50.

Fresh Fish.

- Splitting prices:
- Haddock, 90c per cwt.
- Eastern cod, large, \$2; medium, \$1.75; snappers, 75c.
- Western cod, large, \$2.25; mediums, \$2; snappers, 75c.
- Peak cod, large, 2; medium, \$1.75; snappers, 70c.
- All codfish, not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than the above.
- Hake, 90c.
- Cusk, large, \$1.40; mediums, \$1; snappers, 50c.
- Dressed pollock, 80c, round, 70c.
- Bank halibut, 7c for white and 5c for gray.

TWO SEINERS AT NEW YORK

Two more seiners and four netters are at New York this morning with small mackerel fares. The total landings of the fleet is 8600 fish.

The arrivals are:
Sch. Agnes, Capt. James McLean, 2000 fresh mackerel.
Sch. Rob Roy, Capt. Lemuel Firth, 600 fresh mackerel.

Netters.

- Sch. M. Madeline, 1500 fresh mackerel.
- Sch. Freedom, 700 fresh mackerel.
- Sch. Manomet, 2400 fresh mackerel.
- Sch. Blanche F. Irving, 1400 fresh mackerel.

The Times' correspondent at Edgartown writes that the netters are landing small fares of mackerel off the south side of the island.

The following crafts are now here fitting for mackerel seining:

- Sch. Diana, Capt. James Powers.
- Sch. Speculator, Capt. Benj. Kimball.
- Sch. Frances S. Grueby, Capt. Enos Nickerson.
- Sch. Terra Nova, Capt. John Hickey.
- Sch. Independence II, Capt. John McInnis.

Had Big Fare.

The Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Company's steam trawler George E. Foster arrived recently at Seal Cove with 60,000 pounds of halibut, breaking all her previous records. The company has arranged its eastern markets and will ship the catch east via Seattle. The cold storage plant at Seal cove is working continuously. Fishing generally is flourishing in the north, and all trawlers are obtaining large catches. The season's outlook is very bright.

Portland Fishing Notes.

The Mary E. Sennett reached Portland Friday from Cash's and New Ledge where she has been fishing for two weeks. She brought in 6000 pounds of halibut which were offered to the trade Saturday morning.

Besides her fare of halibut which was purchased by the J. W. Trefethen Company, Thursday the schooner Marjie Turner had 9000 pounds of salt fish which she sold to Lord Bros.

Halibut Craft Seized.

Following a hot chase by a United States deputy marshal in a launch, the halibut fishing schooner Polaris, of Seattle, recently built, was labelled for \$2,500 April 22, off Robinson's point, and brought back to Tacoma. She was afterwards released on \$5,000 bonds. The Polaris sank the sloop Presto at Tacoma, April 21.

Been on Long Voyage.

According to a dispatch from Sydney, N. S. W., the trawler Imbricaria, of the Canadian fleet, reached Port Jackson April 20, on her return to Victoria after trawling three months off the South African coast.

Big Fish Concern.

A new million dollar fish company, to be known as Fish Products, limited, has been incorporated by icfers patent with headquarters in Toronto. The incorporators include Charles Elliott, barrister, and Thomas and Joseph Mosley, oystermen. The company is authorized to take over the Canadian Oyster company, limited.

Baited at Edgartown.

Sch. Thomas A. Cromwell arrived and baited at Edgartown Saturday and sailed halibuting on the following day.

SCHOOL OF WHALES.

The crew of a vessel which reached New York Monday reported that a school of a dozen whales was seen off Sandy Hook. The whales followed the ship, playing about her bow and running rings around her as she came toward the Hook.

Cold Storage Notes.

Work has begun on the \$300,000 cold storage plant of the Booth Fisheries Co., at Minneapolis, Minn. It is hoped that part of the building will be ready by next fall. The building will be of concrete, 138x100 feet, and eight or ten stories high.